

M. R. O. NOTES.

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CHAPTER VI.

Subject: Indian Missions.

In chapter 5 we studied the opening of the door of India to Christian missions; the bringing of the dominant power of the heart of Asia under Protestant control; controlled by a Protestant Queen; permeated by the influences of a great Christian nation; guaranteeing to missionaries of civil and religious rights; the spread of the civilizing instrumentalities of the age, and the spread of the English language.

The problem now before us is, whether or not the missionary work in India has been a failure or success.

Ever since the entering in upon this land by Christian missionaries, there have been conjectures as to the success or failure of the undertaking.

During the past year several articles have been published in the Arena under the caption, "Are Our Christian Missionaries in India Frauds?"

Virchand Gandhi, who represented one of the numerous sects of India at the World's Parliament of Religion, has taken the position, that they are; taking as his premise the proposition, "That a religion like Brahminism, ancient and venerable cannot be supplanted by Christianity, which was born but yesterday."

Some more of his propositions, which need no refutation are: (1) That Christianity is synonymous with falsehood, gluttony and drunkenness. (2) Christianity does not practice the common brotherhood of man. (3) That Christian missions will fail because of the character of our missionaries, who, he affirms, live like princes, enjoy a life of ease and voluptuous indulgence and even insinuates that our missionaries cannot speak the truth. (4) In speaking of the number of converts he says, "These numbers are of course furnished by the missionaries; and that they are often registered in several churches. (5) Because so far very few of the high caste Hindus have forsaken their faith and gone over to Christianity.

But let us now notice the other side. From my note book I quote the following from an Indian missionary: "I have never in my whole missionary life felt so hopeful of the triumph of the Gospel in India, as to day. Unless I am greatly mistaken in reading the signs of the times, the antagonism to Christianity on the part of the educated classes, that has been so pronounced the past few years, is on the wane, and there is a slow but sure movement toward the Gospel. Attempts to reform Hinduism have ended in acknowl-

edged failure; theosophy has been tried and found wanting; and the eyes of thoughtful Hindus are unmistakably turning to Christ as the only fulfillment of their hopes."

The field, tho at the first, one, if not the most unpromising, is to-day one of the most hopeful.

Says Rev. Fox of Poona, India, "There are two elements at work which together give promise of wonderful results:

(1) The growing spirit of *one-ness*; the one-ness that comes from love to God and to one another. (2) There is a cry going up all over the land for the Gift of the Holy Spirit."

Such quotations as these could be given *ad infinitum*, but time and space forbids.

OUTLINE OF CHAPTER.

(1) Field unpromising because 1 General intelligence of people, 2 subtle acuteness of priesthood, 3 prevalence and attractiveness of Pagan Faiths, ("Light of Asia,"—Arnold. 4 Seclusion and exclusion of women, 5 caste system four classes? 6 Superstition.

(Dr. Hill to Robert Nesbitt.)

"And yet God has, in spite of such ignorance and unbelief in the church, already wrought wonders in India."

(2) Changes that are being made:—1, New population being felt, 2 Christian homes multiplying, 3 these Christians, whilst considered outcasts, are forming communities of their own, 4 Female education progressing, 5 Observation of Rev. Sheshadri, 6 Contrast of Vedas with Bible, 7 Decay of superstitious rights and practices. Says a converted Hindu: "From the deep hell of superstition his people are sinking into the deeper hell of atheism." 8 Removal of caste, by railway and horse car, 9 Growth of Christianity. Not only in numbers but *influence*.

Quotations.

Sir Henry Edwards: "God is forming a new nation in India. While the Hindus are busy pulling down their own religion, the Christian church is rising above the horizon. Every other faith in India is decaying; Christianity alone is beginning to run its course."

Max Muller said to McLeod, that he knew no people as ripe for Christianity today as the East Indians.

10, Confessions of Brahmins. I quote the following from the Missionary Review:

"Sirs, I am not a question. I am still regarded as a devout Hindu. I still perform Hindu ceremonies to avoid suspicion, but in my heart I dare not deny the claims of the Bible. I see the power of Jesus Christ in the lives of his followers so distinctly that I cannot deny his divinity. He must be divine or he could not work

such a change in the lives of those who become his followers. He is yet my Savior. The more I read of Christ and ponder over his life and teachings and the power to conquer sin which comes from embracing his religion, the more do I feel that in the end, I shall have to accept him at any cost, as my personal Savior."

Says Rev. Jacob Chamberlain: There is a changed front in India today. The old apathy; the old supercilious indifference; the old silent but dogged resistance; the old conviction that nothing could shake Hinduism's firm foundation has passed away and never to return. And this gives vantage ground to work for India's Redemption. The time to rally Christian forces has come. The time for work is now.

THE MISSIONARY CIRCLE.

Revival meetings everywhere are engaging the attention of the people and the writer so that the work of the Missionary Circle has been perforce somewhat neglected. Very many have written for circulars but few have proceeded to complete the organization.

Nothing should hinder us from our work of winning souls. "No soldier on service entangleth himself with the affairs of this world." During revival services everything else should be given up that one may throw their life into the work.

The new converts being "babes" in Christ need spiritual food. A little girl fell out of bed and on being asked why, said, "Because I went to sleep too near where I got in." Many go to sleep because nothing is given them to do. Pastors, send for circulars of the Reading Course and urge the new members especially to take up the work. It will help greatly to hold them faithful.

All the circulars are now ready. "Ask and ye shall receive."

WORK FOR FEBRUARY.

Read Ps. 68: 31. Is. 19: 20.
Review the work of last month.
Study in Crisis of Missions ch. 9 to 17.
The Walled Kingdom.
Protestant Missions in China.
Japan the Sunrise Kingdom.
Korea the Hermit Nation.
The Ottoman Empire.
The Dark Continent.
Papal Lands.
Mexico, Land of the Aztecs.

Fools measure actions after they are done by the event; wise men beforehand by the rules of reason and right. The former looks to the end to judge of the act.